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RUHQIPA/COMIPAC HONOLULU HI//PA//
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RUEHBJ/USDAO BEIJING CH
RUEHHK/USDAO HONG HONG HK
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BODY
COUNTRY: CHINA (CH) D. ERAN (TR); MIDDLE EAST (A3).
SUBJ: IIR Deleted FE CHINA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ARAB NATIONS

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED WARNING:

INTELLIGENCE.

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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THIS REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON AGREEMENTS SUMMARY: TO EXCHANGE HIGH TECH MILITARY AND JOINT S&T TECHNOLOGIES BETWEEN CHINA AND IRAN. IT ALSO PROVIDES INFORMATION ON CHINA'S SATELLITE LAUNCHING SERVICE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS.

TEXT:

DURING LATE JAN 90, AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN CHINA 1.

AND IRAN TO EXCHANGE HIGH TECH MILITARY TECHNOLOGIES AND JOINT S&T COOPERATION FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY MOHAMMAD ((HOSEIN)), MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AN UNIDENTIFIED CHINESE S&T SPECIALIST WHO WAS IN TEHERAN. FOR ALMOST A DECADE, CHINA HAS BEEN THOUGHT TO BE THE KEY ARMS SUPPLIER TO IRAN AND HAS ACTIVELY CONTINUED TO SUPPLY ARMS AFTER THE IRAN/IRAQ WAR ENDED. RECENTLY, TALKS OF RENEWED ARMS SUPPLIES TO REBUILD IRAN'S MILITARY WERE ONGOING BETWEEN CHINA AND IRAN (NFI). DUE TO THE IMPORT OF ACQUIRING FOREIGN CURRENCIES, CHINA ADDED ARMS SALES AS AN ISSUE IN ITS FOREIGN NEGOTIATIONS.

- TO HELP INCREASE ITS FOREIGN CURRENCY TAKE, THE CHINESE HAVE DISCUSSED A SATELLITE LAUNCH SERVICE BETWEEN THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AND CHINA GREAT WALL INDUSTRY CORPORATION. ACCORDING TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ARAB. ORGANIZATION, A SATELLITE LAUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE SOMETIME IN 1991 AND WILL USE A LONG MARCH-3 ROCKET. THIS DECISION WAS MADE OFFICIAL DURING A CONFERENCE 13-18 JAN 90 HELD IN MUSCAT, OMAN. THE ARABS BELIEVE THE SATELLITE COMMUNICATION NETWORK IS WORTH AT LEAST ONE BILLION DOLLARS.
- EIGHT COUNTRIES MAKE UP THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB SATELLITE

COMMUNICATIONS -- OMAN, KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN, MOROCCO, IRAQ, ALGERIA AND JORDAN. SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1985, IT HAS HAD TWO COMSATS LAUNCHED INTO EARTH ORBIT. THE ARAB ORGANIZATION FEELS THAT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED WILL PROFIT FROM CHINA INEXPENSIVE LAUNCH SERVICES AND ARE PLEASED WITH THE RELATIONSHIP. CHINA, HOWEVER, SERIOUSLY NEEDED THIS RELATIONSHIP TO ACQUIRE HARD CURRENCY (NFI).

COMMENTS:

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